

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A DNA comprising a base sequence encoding one of the following polypeptide (a) or (b):

(a) a polypeptide comprising the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence derived from an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 by deletion, substitution or addition of a part of the amino acids and having a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

2. (Withdrawn) A DNA as set forth in one of the following (a), (b), or (c),

(a) a DNA which encodes the full length or a part of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 derived from the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:16, or SEQ ID NO:19,

(b) a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a base sequence complementary to the DNA as set forth in (a) under a stringent condition, and

(c) a DNA which hybridizes with DNA comprising a base sequence complementary to the DNA as set forth in (a) under a stringent condition, and encoding a protein which has a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

3. (Withdrawn) A gene derived from a rodent and comprising the DNA according to claim 1 or 2.

4. (Withdrawn) A gene according to claim 3, wherein the rodent is a mouse.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide as set forth in one of the following (a) or (b),

(a) a polypeptide comprising the full length of amino acid sequence of the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) a polypeptide comprising the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence derived from an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 by deletion, substitution or addition of a part of the amino acids and having a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

6. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 5 comprising a recombinant protein generated in an isolated host cell in which the DNA encoding the full length of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.18 according to claim 1 or 2 is introduced.

7. (Withdrawn) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 1 or 2.

8. (Withdrawn) A recombinant animal cell in which the recombinant vector according to claim 7 is introduced.

9. (Withdrawn) A recombinant animal in which the recombinant vector according to claim 7 is introduced.

10. (Withdrawn) An antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide according to claim 5.

11. (Withdrawn) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the DNA according to claim 1 or 2.

12. (Withdrawn) A gene expression measurement kit used for the screening method according to claim 11.

13. (Withdrawn) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the polypeptide according to claim 5.

14. (Currently Amended) A vascular proliferation screening and differentiation control factor polypeptide binding substance measurement kit comprising the polypeptide according to claim 5 or 6 and a control compound based on a protein-protein interaction detection system or an agonist, or an antagonist, or an in vivo ligand detection system used in the screening method according to claim 13.

15. (Withdrawn) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the recombinant animal cell according to claim 8.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Withdrawn) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the antibody according to claim 10.

18. (Withdrawn) An antibody titer measurement kit used in the screening method according to claim 17.

19. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising An angiogenesis inhibitor which contains the polypeptide according to claim 5 or 6 one of polypeptide of (a) or (b) as an active ingredient; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor:

(a) a polypeptide comprising whole or a part of the amino acid sequence identical or substantially identical to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:18,

(b) a polypeptide comprising whole or a part of the amino acid sequence which is derived from the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18, by deletion, substitution, or addition and has a biological activity substantially equivalent to that of the polypeptide of (a).

20. (New) A method of inhibiting angiogenesis which comprises contacting a vascular cell with an isolated polypeptide of claim 5 or 6.